2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11 May 2005
English
Original: Spanish

New York, 2-27 May 2005

National report of Mexico on measures taken to implement the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

Introduction

1. Mexico is firmly attached to its pacifist approach and is an active proponent of disarmament and non-proliferation education as an effective means of helping to achieve the vital objective of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

2. It believes it is essential and urgent to take action to promote a culture of disarmament and is calling on the international community to increase its efforts to free present and future generations from the scourge of war. Accordingly, the Mexican Government wants to make disarmament and non-proliferation education a key component of its foreign policy so that the results may be reflected in the conscience of present and future generations, to the benefit of all mankind.

3. Mexico is convinced that, as noted in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124 of 30 August 2002) prepared by a Group of Governmental Experts headed by Ambassador Miguel Marín-Bosch, there has never been a greater need for education in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

4. In keeping with Mexico's interest in encouraging the adoption of measures on this crucial issue in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its review mechanism, the Government is submitting to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties its national report on the measures it has taken to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/60 of 22 November 2002.

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National measures adopted by Mexico

5. The steps taken by Mexico in order to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education are as follows:

(a) During the preparatory process for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico joined other countries in putting forward working papers on disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.18, of 7 May 2004, and NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.17, of 29 April 2004);

(b) In June 2004, the Government submitted to the United Nations Secretariat a report on the measures it has taken to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/60;

(c) Paragraph 30 of the political declaration (ZLAN/CONF/5) adopted by the Conference of States Parties and signatories of treaties that establish nuclear-weapons-free zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, refers to the issue stating that members of such zones are convinced that disarmament and non-proliferation education is an important measure that can contribute to the achievement of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. It also invites all States to promote programmes to instil the values of peace, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in their respective educational and academic circles and calls on IAEA and donor countries to help in the promotion and implementation of such programmes;

(d) The competent Mexican authorities are engaged in the process of establishing a chair of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for disarmament and non-proliferation education at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, our country's largest and most representative higher education institution;

(e) Mexico plans to incorporate subjects concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation into the primary education curriculum in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Education;

(f) Through resolutions, Mexico has continued to promote the inclusion of the topic in the agendas of various international and regional forums such as the Organization of American States and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(g) Mexico has continued to benefit from the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme, which has provided training for several generations of Mexican diplomats who are now involved in determining foreign policy in disarmament and non-proliferation matters within the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs or are attached to Mexican delegations and missions abroad which deal with international disarmament forums and bodies. It has put forward a candidate for the Programme for 2005;

(h) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has instituted the practice of sharing theoretical and practical knowledge concerning disarmament and non-proliferation

issues with young people who have decided to do their community service or internship[1] there, some of whom later join the staff of the Ministry;

(i) In view of the important role of electronic channels in furthering disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to place a disarmament and non-proliferation portal on its website.

[1] In Mexico community service is a requirement for all University students who wish to get a degree. Some institutions of higher learning require that their students complete an internship.